

Attorney Docket No. 13DV-12959 (07783-0021-2)
Application No. 10/050,660

REMARKS

Claims 10 and 26-43 are pending in this application. By this amendment claims 15 and 23-25 are cancelled without prejudice, claim 10 is amended and claims 26-43 are added. This response to the Office action dated March 5, 2004, was originally filed on June 7, 2004, which was timely filed, as June 5, 2004, was a Saturday in the District of Columbia. Although this response was originally filed on June 7, 2004, it is resubmitted as of August 6, 2004 in response to the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment dated July 9, 2004.

Claim 10 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 as indefinite. The examiner noted informalities, specifically, in line 1, "the concentration", in line 6, "the autoclave", in lines 7-8 "the solution", in line 9, "the organic solution", in lines 11-13 "the tank" are all without proper antecedent basis. In addition, lines 16-18 were found to be indefinite and confusing.

Claim 10 has been amended to eliminate the informalities. Although applicants note that "the tank" for which the Examiner can find no antecedent basis is the "storage tank", or first claim element no other tank being noted in the claims, the claim has been amended to clearly refer to "storage" with each use of the term "tank."

Claim 10 has also been revised to clearly indicate the physical properties, which are required to be measured. Physical property changes are related to changes in chemistry.

With regard to the Examiner's statement that claim 10 is incomplete because the components for determining the concentration of the organic and caustic component have not been recited. Applicants note that in fact the physical properties are what is used for determining the concentration. The initial chemistry of the solution is known. As noted in the specification, very accurate determinations of the chemistry of the solution (and changes to the chemistry) can be determined by monitoring the physical properties. As noted in the specification, changes in the physical properties effectively can be linked to changes in the chemistry, which determines the organic and caustic component of the solution.

Claims 26-30 add additional limitations to the analytical equipment. Support for these newly added claims can be found in the specification at pages 9 and 10. Claims 31-43 have been added. Support for these claims can also be found at pages 9 and 10 of the specification and in originally

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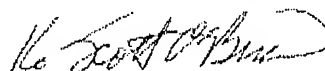
filed claim 10. Claim 31 parallels claim 10 in requiring two sensors, and specifies one of the at least two sensors monitors a physical property. The depended claims 32-38 specify the physical property one of the two sensors must modify. Claims 39-43 specify additional limitations to the analytical equipment, similar to claims 26-30.

CONCLUSION

Applicants request entry of the amendment and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. §112. Applicants submit that claim 10 as amended is in condition for allowance and that newly added claims 26-30 add additional limitations to claim 10. Claims 31-43 parallel claim 10 and also are believed to be allowable. Applicants request allowance of the claims. If the Examiner believes that prosecution of the application can be advanced by a telephone conference, he is urged to contact applicants' attorney at the below listed address.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge indicated fees and credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-1059.

Respectfully submitted,



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